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10 July 1956

TO : The Files

FROM : [REDACTED], OC-E/Liaison, coordinated with [REDACTED], R&amp;D/EP

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SUBJECT : Notes on clandestine Keying Devices.

Service test models of the [REDACTED] () or PAMM perforator keyer are now being delivered to Signal Corps and one unit is expected to be available to this Agency within the next few weeks. Production models of the [REDACTED] will not be forthcoming until several months after completion of service testing which is scheduled for mid-1957 in conjunction with the AN/TRC-37 transistorized agent type radio set. There is a remote possibility that the [REDACTED] may be service tested in September this year with a low powered version of the AN/TRC-37.

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[REDACTED] of OCSigO R&D plans to invite [REDACTED] to Washington late this month to demonstrate the [REDACTED] and TRC-37 equipment. [REDACTED] expressed the hope that another meeting between cleared [REDACTED] representatives and interested parties from this Agency can be arranged to coordinate activities of common interest in the field of agent type communications devices.

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A hand operated morse perforator/keyer unit known as the "Hodbo", developed and produced in Germany by [REDACTED] for tactical or clandestine use, was made available to the writer for a 10 day period. The unit was evaluated by the R&D laboratory and found to be mechanically sound and workable as a perforator. A reasonable amount of operator skill is required to produce good results with the perforator and care must be taken to keep the chad receiver clean. The keying mechanism is weak, however, it is believed that a simple hand operated tape drive and keying mechanism could be fabricated for use in conjunction with the perforator to form a workable interim device for clandestine use.

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Col. Walter Booth, USA, and Lt. Col. William T. Hodson, designers of the "Hodbo" are now on duty in the ZI. Col. Booth believes that 12 Hodbo units are now in the office of the Signal Officer, 7th Army, VAIHINGEN, Stuttgart, Germany. Booth stated that 10 of these units could be made available without charge to this Agency. Booth granted verbal permission to the writer and [REDACTED] for the 7th Army Signal Officer, Col. Wayne Litz, to release these units to an Agency representative. In addition, approximately 85 units are believed to be stored in the [REDACTED]

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All units are surplus to current needs and should be obtainable on a non-reimbursable basis. Other persons in Germany cognizant of the Hodbo are Lt. Col. Flook, 7th Army Signal Supply Officer, and Lt. Col. Ferry, Signal Officer for 10th Special Forces.

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Lt. Col. Hodson states that in his opinion neither the Hodbo or [ ] 50X1  
are practical for field use. The Hodbo because it is too crude and the [ ] 50X1  
because it is too complex.

Army Intelligence Board, after viewing a service test model of the [ ] 50X1  
plans to request that [ ] develop a miniaturized 3 key punch device which 50X1  
will perforate tape which can be transmitted by the keyer section of the [ ] 50X1

OCSigO has indicated that additional service test models of the [ ] 50X1  
could be produced by the contractor during the interim service test period  
at a cost of \$3000.00 per unit for a quantity of five, or \$1600.00 per unit  
for a quantity of 100 units. Delivery approximately 2 units per week.

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